

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-14 (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

~~inputting receiving~~ information input into a handheld device from an indicium on an open shelving system, said information identifying an item stocked on said open shelving system;
~~inputting receiving a current~~ quantity of said item requested at a decentralized storage location ~~to into~~ the handheld device;

receiving into a workstation a current quantity of said item stored in a centralized storage location;

transferring the information and ~~current quantity~~ the quantity of said item requested from the handheld device;

automatically comparing, in a computing device, the current quantity to a par level for said item; and

~~generating a restocking package in response to said automatic comparing when said current quantity is less than said par level~~

queuing in the computing device a restocking package to be processed for the decentralized storage location in response to the information and the quantity of said item requested.

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the indicium is a barcode and the inputting is performed by scanning the barcode.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said transferring includes transporting the handheld device to a location where the information and quantity are downloaded.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said transferring includes transmitting the information and quantity over a wireless link.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said transferring includes inserting the handheld device into a docking station located proximate to said open shelving system.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 additionally comprising selecting information identifying a second item not represented by an indicium on said open shelving system and inputting to the handheld device a ~~current~~ quantity of said second item ~~to be stocked in the open shelving unit~~ requested at a decentralized storage location.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the open shelving unit is one of a fixed unit or a carousel.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein the par level is set using one of a statically or dynamically determined level.

23. (Currently amended) A method of restocking an open shelving system of the type having a plurality of bins, each of said bins having a unique indicium associated therewith, said method comprising:

~~inputting receiving~~ information ~~input~~ into a handheld device from said indicium associated with each bin identifying an item stored therein;

~~inputting receiving~~ a ~~current~~ quantity of each of the items requested at a decentralized storage location into the handheld device corresponding to the input information;

receiving into a workstation a current quantity of the items stored in a centralized storage location;

transferring the information and the ~~current~~ quantity of each of the items requested from the handheld device;

automatically comparing, in a computing device, the current quantity of each of the items to a par level for each item; and

~~generating a restocking package for each item, in response to said automatic comparing, when the current quantity of such item is less than its respective par level~~

queuing in the computing device a restocking package to be processed for the decentralized storage location in response to the information and the quantity of each of the items requested.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the indicium is a barcode and the inputting is performed by scanning the barcode.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein said transferring includes transporting the handheld device to a location where the information and the current quantity of each of the items are downloaded.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein said transferring includes transmitting the information and the current quantity of each of the items over a wireless link.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein said transferring includes inserting the handheld device into a docking station located proximate to said open shelving system.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23 additionally comprising selecting information identifying an additional item not represented by an indicium on said open shelving system and inputting to the handheld device a ~~current~~ quantity of said additional item ~~to be stocked in the open shelving unit requested at the decentralized storage location.~~

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the open shelving unit is one of a fixed unit or a carousel.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23 wherein the par level of each of the items is set using one of a statically or dynamically determined level.